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1996 The Jerusalem Post

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Forecast: Lower temperatures than usual

AROUND THE WORLD

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Merle Maz...

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Western banks target Moslem markets
A start-up's road to Wall Street
It's all in the Money Magazine TODAY

Soldier killed in friendly fire mishap in Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

A GIVATI Brigade soldier was killed and another seriously wounded when they were mistakenly fired upon by members of their own unit in the security zone yesterday morning.

The tragic accident, which the Northern Command is investigating, claimed the life of St-Sgt. Valery Ganzman, 22, of Upper Nazareth.

The wounded soldier, Avishai Shafir, of Moshav Shaked, suffered serious injuries to his chest and limbs, apparently caused by shrapnel as well as bullets.

They were both evacuated by helicopter to Nahariya Government Hospital, where Ganzman was pronounced dead on arrival.

Hospital deputy director Dr. Moshe Daniel said Shafir immediately underwent surgery and was later transferred to the intensive care unit, where he was kept on a respirator.

Daniel said Shafir's family was at his bedside and, although he could not talk, he was able to communicate by writing notes.

"His condition remains serious but stable, and we are all hoping for the best," Daniel said.

The incident happened when the unit was returning to base from an overnight operation.

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Leviot told reporters the unit had been on an

arduous mission.

"In the morning, after a prolonged operational activity by a squad from the brigade's anti-tank unit, the force was returning to its base," Levine said. "The squad was moving through difficult terrain with thick vegetation. The commander became suspicious that there was a terrorist gang in the area, and he prepared an ambush."

The small squad split into two, with the commander apparently leading the advance party and Ganzman taking charge of the rear section.

"For reasons not yet clear to us, there was a loss of contact between the rear force and the advance force," Levine said. "At the end, one or two soldiers from the advance force spotted silhouettes behind them and opened fire. After only a few bullets, they realized that it was their own force and stopped firing. Unfortunately, they had hit the rear section of their own force."

He said that the two sections of the squad were less than 20 meters from each other when the firing broke out.

Levine said that the initial inquiry revealed the squad had prepared thoroughly for its mission and had been comprehensively briefed for all eventualities, including the possibility of being split up and losing contact.

"Nevertheless, they lost touch. I can't say now exactly what caused the lost contact and what happened in the minutes from that point in the point when the [advance] force opened fire," he said, adding this would all be investigated in the inquiry, which is likely to last several days.

"We can't save Valery now. What's left is to investigate [the incident] thoroughly and understand and learn all the lessons in order to provide the best chance that incidents like this won't happen in the future, or at least [minimize them]," Levine said.

(Continued on Page 2)



St-Sgt. Valery Ganzman

Netanyahu: Syrian missile test poses no new threat

EVELYN GORDON

SYRIA'S tests of long-range Scud-C missiles do not constitute a new threat, since Damascus has had these missiles for a long time, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"There's no basic change in the strategic capabilities of Syria," Netanyahu told reporters after the meeting, reiterating what he had told the committee earlier. "Syria has been arming itself with Scud missiles for quite some time. What it's doing now is moving from purchase to manufacture ... However, they are the same Scuds, with the same capabilities, so there is no new strategic factor in the security equation between Syria and Israel."

Netanyahu told the committee he is still waiting for Syria's response to his proposal that the talks be resumed.

"I hope the talks will be renewed," he said, according to an official briefing. "But the Syrians want a commitment from us that we will adopt hypothetical positions relayed to them by the previous government. We are committed only to signed agreements."

Netanyahu said his "Lebanon First" proposal is necessitated by the escalation in Lebanon in recent years. "However, Syria is apparently not interested. It wants to wage an indirect war via the Hizbullah," he said.

Regarding Hebron, Netanyahu told the committee he would not redeploy until the Palestinian Authority shuts down all its institutions in Jerusalem, "including the sports department in Orient House."

"There are two other offices in the eastern part of the city which Arafat himself promised to close, but didn't," he said. "Until these are closed, there will be no progress - including on the issue of Hebron."

"We will continue to hold serious discussions [on Hebron]," he added. "But at the same time, we will examine [the Palestinians'] willingness to honor agreements. We have a very long list of violations ... On the issue of reciprocity, there are many holes on the Palestinian side."

Netanyahu rejected charges by opposition MKs that the real problem in Hebron is not security but the political views of some coalition members.

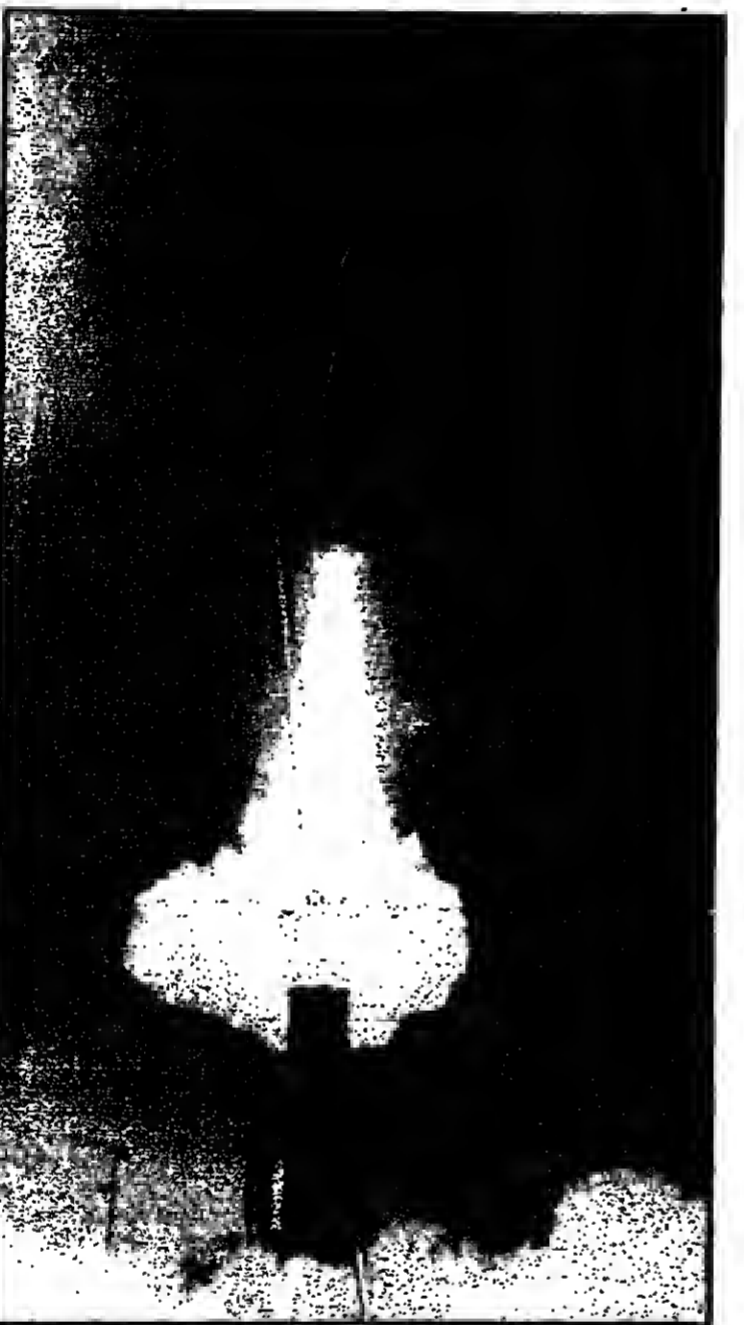
"I wish it were only that," he told reporters. "Of course there are sensitivities in the cabinet. But the problem of security, the life of the Jewish community in Hebron ... to dismiss all that as merely coalition politics is nonsensical."

Ultimately, he said, he would like to see the military government in Hebron replaced by an "Israeli-Palestinian entity, with certain matters remaining in our hands."

At the end of the meeting, Netanyahu launched a blistering attack on opposition leader Shimon Peres.

"When I was opposition leader, I never thought for a minute that it was possible for me to conduct diplomatic negotiations with anyone," he said. "This interference by the opposition in the negotiations causes the other side to harden its positions, and can sabotage the negotiations."

(Continued on Page 2)



The Arrow 2 missile blasts off from the launch site at Palmachim yesterday. The missile, developed by Israel and the US, successfully intercepted a Scud-type missile within 60 seconds.

Arrow intercepts target

Hits incoming missile at first attempt

STEVE RODAN

THE joint US-Israeli Arrow 2 missile, in its first attempt at interception, was test-fired yesterday off the Mediterranean coast and destroyed a Scud-type target missile, officials said.

"It was a successful test," said Moshe Keret, director-general of Israel Aircraft Industries, the main contractor of the Arrow. "The target was destroyed."

Defense Ministry officials said the test began at 3:16 p.m. with the firing of a target missile from a ship in the Mediterranean. About four minutes later, the Arrow was launched from an air force base south of Tel Aviv.

Officials said the launch proceeded as planned. Within a minute, the Arrow 2 tracked down the target missile and caught up to it. The officials said the Arrow warhead was detonated and the target missile was hit.

"We saw on the screen two match-like blips, and the Arrow met up with the target missile and all the telemetry data stopped," an Arrow project source said. "The Israelis and the Americans were stunned. This meant that the Arrow had struck the target missile rather than merely coming close to it and exploding."

Israeli and US scientists and officials dealing with the Arrow project worked for several hours in analyzing the test and, as expected, did not immediately confirm the interception. They were studying the performance of the Arrow, particularly the circumstances of the destruction of the target missile.

By yesterday evening, some three hours after the test, the US Ballistic Missile Defense Organization released an announcement that confirmed the success of the launch. US officials confirmed that the target missile was struck by the Arrow.

"Metal hit metal," said Pam Rogers, a BMDO spokeswoman said from the command headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama.

Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai praised the test. "The successful advancement in the series of tests of the Arrow system, which is being developed in cooperation between Israel and the US, gives the defense establishment the acquisition of unique and modern technology that places Israel in the global forefront of technological know-how," he said.

This was the third test of the Arrow 2 and the first in which an interception was attempted. On June 12, 1994, the experimental Arrow 1 missile intercepted a target missile but, because of a failure to operate its warhead, failed to destroy it.

Officials said the Arrow 2 system's radar, called Green Pine and developed by IAI subsidiary Elta Electronic Industries, successfully tracked down the target missile. Yet another radar system is being developed for the Arrow and is expected to be completed within the next few months.

Officials said yesterday's launch was the first of four tests in which the Arrow will seek to intercept a target missile. Among the aims of the launch was in test the Arrow's sensors and ground support equipment.

The launch was decided on by defense and military officials at 6 a.m. But preparations for the test were postponed until 11 because clouds covered the launch site. But by 2, the clouds left and the countdown to launch resumed.

Future tests will envision other scenarios of an enemy missile attack against Israel, including changes in altitude.

The latest test was supervised by a team of US scientists from the Ballistic Missile Defense Program, including the new head of the US Arrow project, Joseph Butler. The US is financing 72 percent of the \$322 million allotted for the current stage of the Arrow.

Officials said the interception moves Israel closer to its plans to employ the first battery of an anti-missile defense system by the end of the decade. The system will

(Continued on Page 2)

US manager of Arrow stunned by success

STEVE RODAN

JOE Butler spent 10 years as manager of the Erint PAC-3 program, which was aimed at destroying short-range enemy ballistic missiles.

Then he transferred to manage the US Arrow program, and yesterday he saw a dream test of the Arrow 2 missile.

"What I saw were two little black objects on the screen go 'pow' and a puff of smoke," Butler said, recalling watching the Arrow interception of the target missile on infra-red radar.

"It was a fantastic intercept," he added. "It is the first program that I can remember that had a successful intercept on the first try."

Butler said that by the end of today, he and his team of US and Israeli scientists will know for certain, but he is already convinced that the Arrow actually hit the target missile rather than merely passing near it and detonating its warhead.

"We knew that the Arrow warhead was activated and that fragments hit the target," he said. "But I also saw a smack. The warhead was activated and after that a puff of smoke. It was too quick to be anything else but a smack."

Butler said future launches of Arrow 2 will test the missile's intercept capabilities with different targets and altitudes. He said if the next launch, which could be as early as November, is successful, the joint US-Israeli team might move into focusing efforts on developing the entire Arrow anti-missile defense system, rather than merely testing the missile itself.

"Given one more success, we can concentrate on the entire system," Butler said. "I don't think there's that much left to prove [on the capability of the Arrow 2]."

Butler said US anti-missile defense programs will have access to all the data from the Arrow tests. He said he hopes that US contractors and Pentagon officials will save time and money by determining how to avoid the pitfalls found in the Arrow program.

"I look at the Arrow program as a microcosm compared to the American system," Butler said, "because the deployment in the US will be so much larger. We have been supplying to the US, as a matter of record, all the data on the Arrow."

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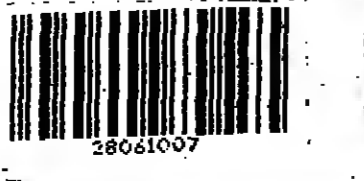
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New postal head nominated

JUDY SIEGEL

MOSHE Tery, who has had a respected career in banking and private industry, was nominated yesterday as director-general of the Postal Authority, replacing Ran Levin, who resigned recently after two years in the post.

Communications Minister Lior Livnat, who announced she would nominate Tery for approval by the Postal Authority council and the government, said she was pleased he agreed to leave the private sector to take the job.

Born in Rehovot 46 years ago, married with three children, Tery has a BA in economics and political science and an MA in economics and business administration. He currently serves as managing director of the Central Securities Company and previously served in numerous financial positions at Bank Discount.

He sits on the boards of a number of companies and organizations, including Israel Chemicals, Laromne Hotels, the Airports Authority and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.



Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai meets with Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday morning.

(Yizhak Elhanan/Scoop 80)

Arabs to get preferred gov't mortgages

DAVID HARRIS

DEPUTY Housing Minister Meir Porush yesterday instructed officials to allow increased mortgages for Arabs, initially in five northern settlements.

This is the first time Arab and Druze communities have been placed on the formal preferential areas list, according to the ministry. For too long Israeli Arabs have been subjected to discrimination, Porush said.

"This goes to show we're even-handed," one Ministry source said. "People said yesterday's [Monday] announcement [of housing for 70,000 Jews along the Green Line] showed our intentions, well today we've proven otherwise."

The help, which will amount to tens of millions of shekels, will be offered first to residents of Nazareth, Taiba, and Yafia, together with the predominantly Druze villages of Maghar and Hurfeish. In the three Arab towns an additional NIS 50,000 will be avail-

able to those who qualify for help in Hurfeish, which is on the confrontation line, that figure rises to NIS 80,000; and in Maghar, which is a national preference area, NIS 60,000 will be loaned. In all instances 4.5 percent interest will be charged, compared to the current bank rate of 6.5%.

The extra help means, for example, a young couple without children, wanting to purchase a property in one of the above Arab towns will receive an extra NIS 75,000, rising to upward of NIS 130,000 for a family with children.

At the same time, citizens in Kiryat Shmona will become entitled to an additional NIS 100,000, and NIS 50,000 will go to people in Beersheva, Beit Shemesh, Migdal Ha'emek, Acre, and Afula.

Likewise, people wanting to buy properties in a variety of other settlements and development areas will receive an extra NIS 50,000 mortgage allowance.

Technion team finds physical basis for mental retardation

JUDY SIEGEL

THE mechanism that causes the most common form of inherited mental retardation, Fragile X Syndrome, has been uncovered by a team from the Haifa Technion's Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, it was announced yesterday.

"We have identified the probable physical basis to the clinical defect," said Prof. Michael Fry, of the medical faculty's biochemistry unit.

Fragile X Syndrome affects one in 1,500 males and one in 2,500 females. This makes it one of the most prevalent human genetic diseases in the world. Its symptoms include mental impairment, such as learning disabilities, mental retardation, attention-deficit disorder, and hyperactivity. People suffering from the syndrome also experience anxiety, unstable moods, and autistic-like behavior.

Among the physical characteristics that go with the syndrome are a long face, large ears, flat feet, hyperextensible joints (especially fingers), and larger-than-normal testicles.

"We have always had a special interest in unusual conformations of DNA, and while investigating this field, we came across abnormal DNA structures forming within the gene that becomes defective

in patients afflicted with Fragile X Syndrome," said Fry.

For their work, the Technion has awarded its prestigious Tauh Prize to Fry and his colleagues Yotvat Nadel, Livnat Uliel, Dr. Prina Weisman-Shomer, and a collaborator from the University of Washington, Dr. Lawrence Loeb.

Five years ago, researchers first identified the mutation that "turns off" the FMR1 gene in people suffering from the syndrome, preventing it from producing a vital protein. While the location of the defect and its effects were known, why it turned off the FMR1 gene remained a mystery.

The Technion team found that when a piece of DNA situated within the gene mutates to become longer, it can take the shape of an unusual four-stranded DNA instead of the normal two strands - or it may fold back into a hairpin structure instead of remaining straight.

Fry said that when the piece of DNA expands, specific DNA binding proteins are no longer able to stabilize its excessive length and it thus folds back, thus explaining the name "fragile."

The structure can obstruct the normal replication of the gene and cause the disorder.

Lack of Border Control resources allows foreigners to slip in illegally

EVELYN GORDON

COMPUTER problems are at the root of Israel's inability to control the entry of illegal foreign workers, Batya Carmon, head of the Interior Ministry's visa department, told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Carmon said many illegal entrants use forged or stolen passports and visas.

There are hundreds of thousands of known forged documents floating around the world, she said, and they are listed in databases.

However, the Border Control's computers do not have enough memory to store this information. Therefore, people who enter Israel never have their documents checked against the list of known forgeries and thefts.

Carmon's deputy, Nissim Eliassaf, complained that the police are not cooperating in trying to improve the system.

Furthermore, he said, Border Control inspectors do not function on a high professional level and their motivation is low.

Asst.-Cmdr. Eli Ya'ari, the police commander at Ben-Gurion

Airport, acknowledged that there are several problems with the inspectors. He blamed this partly on the past few years' rapid growth in the volume of traffic through the airport, which currently totals some seven million entrances and exits a year.

While efforts have been made to improve both the level of manpower and computerization, the police have not received enough of a budget to do the job properly, he said.

Carmon stressed, however, that this would be a worthwhile investment, since it is much easier to keep people from entering the country illegally than it is to locate and expel them afterwards.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he would summon the finance, interior and internal affairs ministers to the next meeting on the subject, and would also write to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the issue.

The weakness of the responsible authorities have displayed in dealing with this matter is shocking, he said, as is the fact that there is not one body with overall responsibility for Border Control.

Ethiopians consider High Court petition over Navon panel

RAINE MARCUS

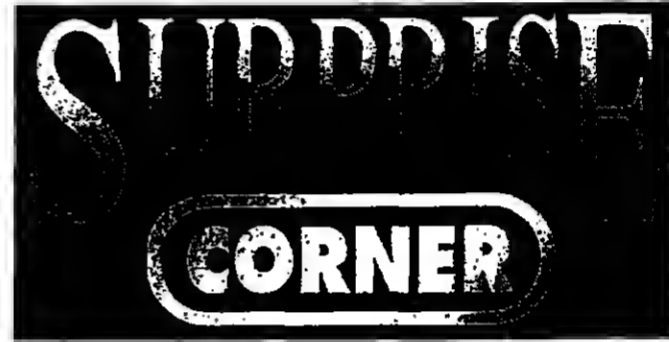
THE Ethiopian community is considering filing a petition with the High Court of Justice over the findings of the Navon Commission, which probed the Ethiopian blood affair.

The community, emphasized MK Adisu Massala (Labor) yesterday, was never informed that blood its members donated was discarded out of fear of HIV contamination. The commission did not recommend that anyone from the medical community, including Aminon Ben-David, director of the Magen David Adom blood bank, be held accountable.

"The commission's findings were purely medical, and had no social meaning for us," Massala said at a conference of the Ethiopian community. "If there was a real risk, the medical authorities should have told us. But they treated us with disdain and did not deal with the social consequences for the community. We have serious enough problems as it is, and the commission's findings have only made our absorption even harder."

Both Massala and Namiar Hillel, who represented the community on the commission, described their "distress, insult, and deep pain" at the blood donation incident, and at the "categorical classification of the Ethiopians as a high-risk group."

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UN coordinator PA near financial collapse

JON IMMANUEL

THE PA's financial crisis has deepened as a result of the economic collapse of the West Bank and Gaza.

The UN coordinator for the West Bank and Gaza, J. Edgar Hoover, said the PA's financial situation is "more than dire."

Speaking at a press conference in El-Bethlehem, Hoover said the PA's financial situation is "more than dire."

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S. Korean police raid ends bloody campus protests

HURLING tear gas and swinging batons, thousands of police stormed a campus stronghold of militant students yesterday, crashing through flaming barricades and ending nine days of bloody protest over South Korea's unification policies.

They smashed through a bonfire of wooden desks and chairs engulfing the main entrance of a teaching block and flushed out about 1,000 mostly female students after a pitched battle.

Hours later, a further 2,000 or so terrified students holed up in a nearby science block took advantage of the melee and fled into alleys and hills surrounding the Yonsei University campus where they were hunted down.

They had earlier threatened to explode gas canisters and dangerous chemicals seized from laboratories. Police caught up with and arrested about 1,400 of them, Yonhap TV reported.

Police began screening those detained to determine whether to bring formal charges against them. Those who fled or were cap-

News agencies
SEOUL

tured were the last of some 7,000 students who began the confrontation with police on Aug. 12, when they gathered at the university for an outlawed rally branded by the government as pro-North Korean.

In all 3,225 students were arrested, bringing the total held in a week of pro-Pyongyang agitation at Yonsei to around 5,500.

Dozens of students were injured in the assault by denim-clad riot police trained in martial arts. Many had blood streaming from head wounds as they were dragged off.

One police officer was in serious condition with head injuries and a South Korean news photographer was in critical condition in hospital after being struck on the head by a rock, said Yonhap TV, quoting police officials.

Within two hours of the dawn raid, riot police had taken control of the Yonsei University building and hauled away the students.

Most of the youngsters were exhausted after withstanding four days of siege with little sleep, food or water.

The raid came hours after students had rejected a government appeal for surrender in exchange for leniency.

As dawn broke, 5,000 riot police, aided by 13 helicopters raining down tear gas solution, moved in. Students fought back by throwing firebombs and rocks and setting fire to broken desks and chairs piled up as barricades.

KBS TV showed the charred ground floor of one building and columns of flame and smoke rising from its rooftop, where masked students were hurling rocks and furniture at police.

The students were finally forced to file out, hands over their bent heads. Those who balked were beaten by police.

When police moved into the six-story science building it was almost empty, with only several dozen injured students lying on the concrete floor.



A scuba diver shines a light on the bust of Lenin while visiting the underwater museum of monuments to great communist leaders of the former Soviet Union. The museum, situated at the Ukrainian Black Sea resort of Cape Tarkhankut on the Crimean peninsula, was created by amateur scuba divers in 1992. Entry to the museum is free. (AP)

Missing Belgian girls may have been sold to brothels

BRUSSELS (AP) - Police yesterday said they were looking beyond Belgium's borders for two teen-age girls kidnapped by a convicted child rapist who had buried the bodies of two other victims in a garden.

"We're asking people from all over the world to help us work on this cruel affair," Justice Minister Stefan De Clerck said.

Police held out hope the teens were still alive and may have been sold to brothels in eastern Europe.

Their confessed kidnapper, Marc Dutroux, led authorities to the bodies of two little girls over the weekend.

Authorities yesterday ruled there was enough evidence to continue detaining Jean-Michel Nihoul, one of four people arrested in connection with the death of the two children and the abduction of four others in an alleged child pornography ring. Nihoul, a Brussels real estate agent, said his only contact with Dutroux involved Dutroux' properties and the repair of his car.

Investigators also searched 15 houses of friends or

acquaintances throughout Belgium yesterday, media reported.

The missing teen-agers, aged 17 and 19, were kidnapped in the summer of 1995 when they returned from a night out on the Belgian coast.

Belgian media said authorities were pursuing a tip that the girls were sold into prostitution in the Czech Republic, after spending some time in the house where Dutroux kept other kidnapped girls in southern Belgium.

Last week police rescued two sexually abused girls, 12 and 14, from a secret cellar in Dutroux' shabby home. One had disappeared in May, the other in August.

Dutroux led police to the bodies of two children who he said starved to death while he was serving a jail term for an unrelated theft in December. The two 8-year-olds, kidnapped in June 1995 while playing on a bridge, were found buried alongside the remains of an accomplice he confessed to killing.

Lebed: Who really wrote Yeltsin's decree?

BORIS Yeltsin's new security chief plunged Moscow politics into chaos yesterday, challenging the authenticity of presidential decrees on the Chechnya crisis and raising speculation on whether Yeltsin was still running Russia.

Aides to the 65-year-old president, seen only once in public since he was re-elected seven weeks ago, insisted he was not ill but he remained out of sight.

His spokesman denied a new report he was being treated for a serious heart condition and said he had left Moscow for a short holiday.

Tough-talking ex-general Alexander Lebed, just two months in his job as Security Council secretary and already at loggerheads with some Kremlin insiders, issued a statement saying Yeltsin's latest decrees on Chechnya bore only a facsimile signature and seemed to have been prepared without his participation.

A decree ordering Lebed to restore Russian control of Grozny, which was seized by separatist rebels on August 6, was the cue for the army to prepare a massive bombardment of the Chechen capital and would wreck Lebed's peacemaking efforts, the Security Council statement said.

Lebed, whom Yeltsin named his personal

ALASTAIR MACDONALD
MOSCOW

representative to Chechnya last week, would make his third trip in 10 days to the region today, Itar-Tass news agency said.

Yeltsin started a two-day break in the picturesque lakeland of Valdai in northwestern Russia yesterday, the presidential press service said.

Spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Yeltsin would consider a longer holiday in Valdai but dismissed as "complete rubbish" a report by Ekho Moskvy radio that the president had been in a specialist cardiological center since August 15.

Journalists at Ekho Moskvy said they stuck by their story, which said Yeltsin, who had two heart attacks last year, had been diagnosed as having moderately serious heart trouble.

"In the coming hours the question of carrying out a surgical operation may be decided," the radio said.

Yastrzhembsky had denied a Time magazine report that the Kremlin was considering trans-

ferring Yeltsin to a Swiss clinic for a bypass operation.

He said the president and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who would deputize for Yeltsin if he were incapable of working, were continuing to work on formation of the new government, most of which was announced last week.

There was no immediate response to Lebed's charges.

"The contents of the documents give solid grounds to doubt that the president of Russia took a direct part in finalizing the text of the order," the Security Council statement said.

The decree, it added, had given the army commander in the region his cue to announce he would launch an all-out air and artillery bombardment of the city from tomorrow morning, having given tens of thousands of citizens 48 hours to flee.

Terrified civilians flooded out of Grozny yesterday.

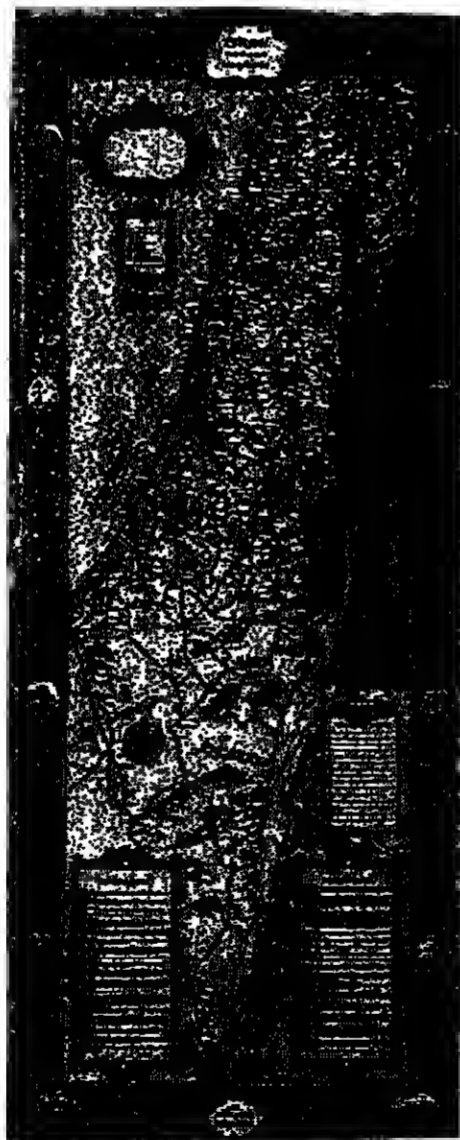
"The whole city is on its way out," said Nina Madayeva, who said 12 planes had bombed Grozny's southwestern district overnight.

"We've been in a basement for 14 or 15 days and couldn't stand it any more." (Reuters)

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Gingrich: US must act first against terrorists

DULUTH, Ga. - House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich said yesterday the United States should be ready to carry out military strikes against nations suspected of plotting attacks against American targets.

Calling for what he termed a "doctrine of pre-emption," Gingrich said in a speech to business leaders that potential terrorists should be given 24 hours to prove their innocence or face retaliation.

"He said attacks on terrorist cells could be carried out covertly by the Central Intelligence Agency or overtly by military means in the style of Israel's 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear power plant.

Gingrich also said the US should take steps to protect cities with a missile defense system and beef up intelligence aimed at exposing terrorist groups.

"We don't wait around until after they take out the World Trade towers, with nuclear weapons next time. We go ahead and say: We have a reason to believe you're not behaving correctly. You should convince us in the next 24 hours that we're wrong or we will take you out," he said.

"We should be very aggressive in saying to Libya, Syria, Iran and Sudan that we will not tolerate your supporting terrorists." (Agencies)

Pan Africans admit whites were targets

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africa's radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) acknowledged yesterday that its guerrillas had targeted white civilians but said it made no apologies.

PAC leader Clarence Makwetu told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, that the PAC regretted the August 1993 killing of American student Amy Biehl in Gugulethu black township outside Cape Town by youths allied to the organization.

Biehl was stabbed and stoned to death by a mob that attacked her car when she was dropping off friends in the township at the time of a teachers' strike.

"This act occurred in the context of a strike for recognition by the South African Democratic Teachers' Union," Makwetu said.

"To support the strike, an operation was launched to stop deliveries from towns into the townships. Although the PAC was not involved, the Pan Africanist Student Organization (PASO) acted in solidarity with their teachers. They wrongly targeted and killed Amy Biehl," he said.

"We expressed our regret and condolences to Amy Biehl's family in a letter to the US ambassador."

"We restate this position yet again through the truth commission. But misguided as the deed was, we support the amnesty applications of all those convicted and sentenced for the offence."

Four PAC men were jailed for 18 years each for killing Biehl, 26, from Newport Beach, Ca.

Discussing the activities of the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), Makwetu said "a new pattern arose in the 1990s where civilians within the white community were attacked."

"The actual targets were decided by local commanders. Local operatives often made errors APLA had earlier avoided."

Makwetu described the killing of civilians as "departures which we as political leaders who declared war must and do take responsibility for". But he added: "We make no apologies. We have nothing to hide."

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Lebanese electoral opposition takes it on the chin

ANDREW TARNOWSKI
BEIRUT

LEBANON'S Christian opposition reeled this week from an election drubbing that dashed their hopes of taking parliament by storm.

The opposition, attempting a revival after years in the wilderness since the 1975-90 civil war, barely knew what hit them on Sunday when the pro-Syrian government rolled out a powerful electoral machine that won 32 of the 35 seats contested in overwhelmingly Christian Mount Lebanon.

Opposition candidates and independent observers accused the government of committing the worst election abuses in decades in the first of five rounds of voting for the 128-member house.

They demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Michel al-Murr, who organized the vote and easily won a seat, but it was not clear if they would also ask Lebanon's new constitutional court to cancel the result and order a new vote.

Ghassan Tuani, a former government minister and UN ambassador, expressed the bitterness of moderate Christians in an editorial in his respected conservative newspaper *an-Nahar*.

He called the election a "wicked mockery" of vote-rigging, mental terrorism, intimidation and night-time violence.

"How could a rotten government lead an honest electoral battle, when it knows it is fighting for its survival," *an-Nahar* asked.

The outcome was a crushing blow for opposition politicians who had broken ranks with hardline Christian leaders urging a repeat of a 1992 election boycott on the grounds that there was no hope of a free and fair vote.

Rejecting boycott calls, the opposition hopefuls argued that it was time to get back into parliament and try to stop the whittling away of Lebanese sovereignty by a government backed by 35,000 Syrian troops stationed in the country.

But they only succeeded in breaking the Christian boycott front — a development welcomed by the government — without bringing over enough voters to win

THE bread riots in Jordan came as no surprise. Many factors have led Jordan to a degree of instability, and these are well known to the Amman government and its security branches. When the riots erupted, the kingdom was well prepared to cope with them.

But there was an interesting point to notice — the main unrest was among Jordanians proper, in Karak and other southern towns. The extensive Palestinian population this time stayed calm.

This is worth mentioning because it was a repeat of 1978 when the southern towns also erupted in "food riots" similar to those of recent days. The large Palestinian population again declined to challenge the crown,

even those in the poor refugee camps. Palestinians live mostly in Amman and the 1978 riots did not spread to the capital. This week's trouble in Amman was limited to the poor Jufah district — again mostly "Jordanian" and not "Palestinian." Neither did refugee camps join the disturbances.

It all means firstly that basic loyalty to the Hashemite monarchy is strong enough to withstand some periods of instability. It would not be correct to say that Palestinians in Jordan feel perfectly at home, but they fare better and feel better than they do in most other Arab countries. They even have nothing to envy their West Bank brethren for. This possibly surprising tacit support of Palestinians for the crown is an

ANALYSIS
PINHAS INBARI

addition to the undoubted loyalty of most native Jordanians to King Hussein.

It is mainly the Jordanian government, and in particular Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti, that came under fire seriously for the first time since he assumed the post eight months ago.

It was on the Jordanian government the public had pinned their hopes for the "peace dividend" from the treaty with Israel, seen mainly as an accelerator for economic prosperity. But nothing has materialized — not from the big plans for canals in the Arava, or new highways, or ultra-modern telecommunications spurring a

business boom and an imporing of foreign investment.

King Hussein took the common Middle Eastern ruler's course of blaming "foreign parties" — basically Iraq — for instigating the riots. It is easy for him now to blame the international pariah Saddam Hussein, but the blame clearly lies inside Jordan.

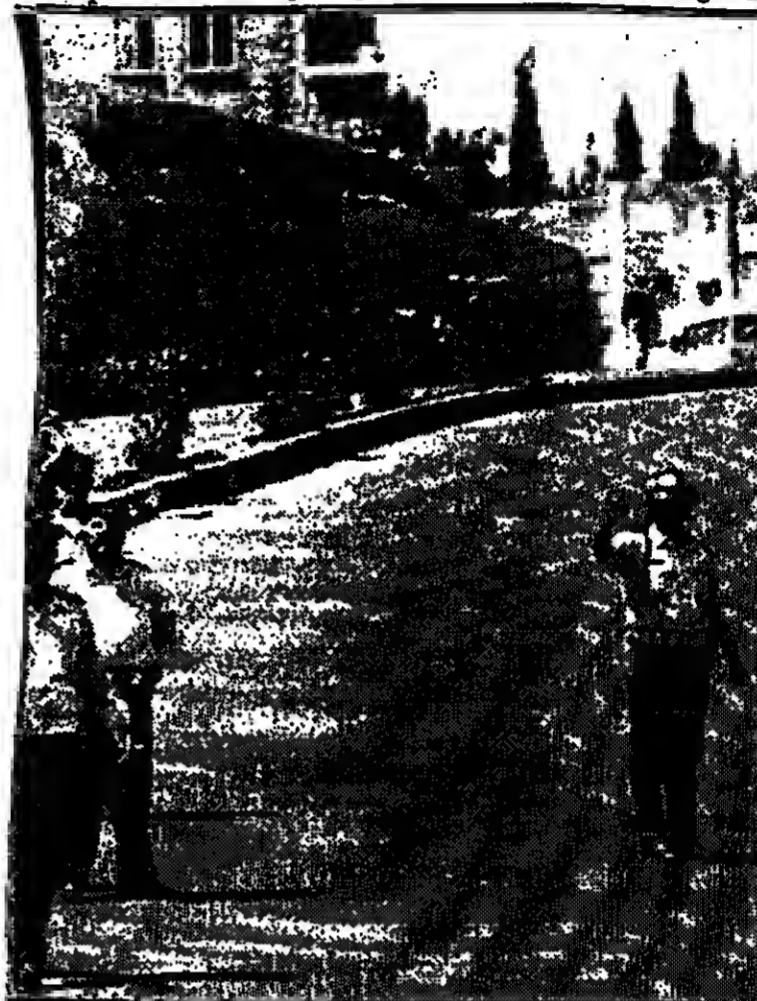
It is also true there are radical Palestinians and others with the potential to divert a situation like the current one to a worse one. On the street, with a bent towards rioting, can be found pro-Syrian leftist parties, and the radical wing of the Moslem Brothers. At the Cairo Arab summit, King Hussein even accused Syria of inciting violent subversion inside Jordan. But he did not repeat the charge this

time because, since the summit, he has improved his relations with Damascus.

It does not mean that Syria is beyond exploiting the economic difficulties of its southern neighbor and old rival if there was a chance of destabilizing Jordan internally.

What it does mean, is that progress in the peace process may become crucial to the Hashemite monarchy. Progress for the Palestinians in the territories would enable Jordanian Palestinians to support the regime more openly. There are plenty of radical Palestinians only waiting for the right moment to team up with other forces who would be delighted to divert "bread riots" to something far worse.

Palestinians lie low in Jordan riots



Street of the town of Karak on Monday. The town stayed quiet that day as rioters over doubled bread prices. (Reuters)

that six Saudis harhar bomb

agencies
RAI

started returning home, a US Embassy spokesman said this week. "The repatriation of families of Defense Department personnel has begun," said the official at the US Embassy in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. "The move began recently," he said on condition he not be identified further.

Most of the 800 dependents of Defense Department employees in Saudi Arabia will be repatriated, said the official.

Apparently for security reasons, the embassy has been secretive about the move, which was not publicly announced. The official would not say when the repatriation started, or from where it is taking place.

The dependents have been ordered home for security reasons, and also because about 4,000 US troops are expected to be moved from facilities in Riyadh and Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia, to a military air base in Al-Kharj, 50 miles south of Riyadh.

The base is still under construction and has no living facilities for dependents. The soldiers are expected to be housed in tents until dormitories are built.

In addition, the US State Department said last month that

families of American government employees could return home if they wished at Washington's expense.

Those dependents do not have to leave. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd considers the American presence necessary to protect the kingdom from its main rivals, Iran and Iraq. However, some ordinary Saudis oppose any Western military presence in the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia beheaded four Saudi men in May after they confessed to carrying out the Riyadh bombing. They said their action was inspired by militant Moslem groups active elsewhere in the Arab world. In televised confessions, the four said they had been planning more attacks against Americans. There has been no official word of any arrests in connection to the June attack in Dhahran.

US officials were not given access to the four before they were executed. Washington wants to make sure that does not happen again. Another London-based Saudi opposition group, the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, said last week that two Kuwaiti and two Lebanese suspects were arrested in Kuwait and handed over to Saudi authorities.

However, Kuwait has not announced any arrests or extraditions in connection with the June bombing.

US tracks terror funds

WEAALTHY individuals in Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries, are involved in financing terrorists who attack Americans and Israelis, US government sources said this week.

US intelligence agencies are checking the activities of Osama Bin Laden, a member of a wealthy Saudi family who was stripped of his Saudi citizenship in 1994 and who finances a host of hard-line groups from Egypt to Algeria. Bin Laden has lived in Sudan for the past five years.

Officials in several countries, including the US, say Bin Laden's money, as well as money he has raised, paid for terrorist attacks in Europe, Africa and the Middle East against Americans and other Westerners.

Khaled al-Fauwaz, a spokesman for the Advice and Reformation Committee in London, with which Bin Laden is associated, dismissed the charges as "rubbish."

But in a document made public earlier this year, the US State Department called Bin Laden "one of the most significant financial sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world."

It linked him to terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and Sudan and said he supported a group that tried to bomb American servicemen in Yemen in 1992.

The Saudi militants who killed five Americans in November in a Riyadh bombing said in their confessions that they had been influenced by Bin Laden's thinking.

Former and current US officials were quoted by *The New York Times* as saying they believe businessmen in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates fed funds to Ranzai Ahmed Yousef. Yousef is accused of being the mastermind behind the World Trade Center bombing in New York in 1993 and a plot to blow up 11 US jets.

The US State Department document said in the three years before Yousef was charged in the World Trade Center bombing, he lived in a Pakistan guest house paid for by Bin Laden.

Philip Wilcox, head of the State Department's counter-terrorism office, told Congress recently that the Palestinian fundamentalist groups Hamas and Islamic Holy War receive significant support from individuals in the Gulf as well as in the US.

Some contributors believe that they are underwriting legitimate charitable organizations. Others give money to radical groups knowingly, through secret channels, Wilcox said.

(News agencies)

2 Germans smuggling nerv

News age

GERMAN authorities said this week they have arrested two men and were hunting a third on suspicion of smuggling hi-tech equipment to Libya to enable it to manufacture lethal nerve gas. Moenchgladbach prosecutor Ralf Moellmann identified the arrested businessmen only as Udo B, aged 47, and Detlef C, 54. He named the third suspect as Berge Balianian, 62, and said Balianian was also believed to have tried to smuggle similar equipment to Libya in the 1980s.

Suedwestfunk television reported that two German firms bought and shipped several complex automation systems between November 1991 and July 1993, that can mix poison gases for chemical weapons.

It said the alleged two-year smuggling operation was big enough to allow Libya to operate, with ease, a much bigger chemical plant than the one at Rabta damaged by fire in 1990.

Moellmann said the suspects, arrested on August 9, were believed to have organized the shipment of advanced production equipment worth around DM3.2 million (NIS 7 million) to Tripoli via Belgian companies owned by Lebanese-born Balianian. He added

that southeast of Tripoli, and Defense Secretary William Perry has raised the prospect of using military action to keep it from operating.

Moellmann, however, was unable to say if there were any indications that the equipment had actually been taken to Tripoli.

Germany plugged loopholes in its laws on the export of equipment capable of being used for weapons manufacture, after German companies helped Libya to build the Rabta plant in 1988 and enabled Iraq to extend the range of Scud missiles used in the 1991 Gulf War. Joergen Hippenstiel-Imhausen, head of the Imhausen Chemie company which organized the Libya deal, was jailed for five years in 1990.

Prosecutors in March charged a Stuttgart businessman suspected of helping Libya develop chemical weapons with violating arms-export laws.

could not be independently confirmed.

Saad al-Fagih, head of the opposition movement, said in a telephone interview from London that the suspects were being held in a prison in Jubail, a port city northwest of Khobar, where the US military housing complex was bombed seven weeks ago.

Fagih cited unidentified Saudi security and Interior Ministry sources as saying that most of the suspects were from the Khobar suburb of Thugba.

In Saudi Arabia, the US Embassy and Saudi officials both refused to comment on the claim.

Fagih said most of the suspects had been trained in Afghanistan, where Moslem militants fought with Afghan rebels as part of a 10-year battle that eventually drove out Soviet troops in 1989. Many of the so-called "Arab Afghans" have since returned to their native coun-

accounts for the majority of the kingdom's 11 million citizens.

The United States has about 5,000 military personnel in Saudi Arabia. Their main mission is to monitor the no-fly zone established in southern Iraq following the 1991 Gulf War.

Altogether some 40,000 Americans (including the 5,000 military) live and work in the kingdom. Security for them has become a top priority after the two bombings which claimed 24 American lives.

Nineteen American servicemen were killed and scores wounded in a June 25 bomb attack against a US military housing complex in Dhahran. Five Americans and two Indians were killed in a Nov. 13 car bomb attack which targeted a US-run military building in Riyadh.

After the two deadly attacks in less than a year, the families of the American military personnel have

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Justice not mercy

HERSHEL SHANKS



Not only did T.S. Eliot use antisemitic passages in his works, but they were actually the inspiration for his verse, claims Princess Diana's lawyer in his until-recently obscure book, 'T.S. Eliot, Antisemitism and Literary Form.'

Royal divorce hits T. S. Eliot's reputation

PRINCE Charles divorces Princess Diana and, as a result, the reputation of the great poet T.S. Eliot hits the skids on both sides of the Atlantic.

Go figure, but that is what happened. Talk about what many would say was an innocent bystander, Eliot has been dead since 1965, long before the fairytale wedding of Diana and Charles in 1981, even longer than their modern-day breakup 15 years later.

But Eliot enters the picture because Diana's lawyer, Anthony Julius, the man who wooed her a reported \$26 million lump-sum settlement, is also the author of an until-recently obscure book on the poet called *T.S. Eliot, Antisemitism and Literary Form*.

Cambridge University Press published a few thousand copies in Britain last year and figured that would be the end of it — a new commentary available to scholars on an old issue that has haunted Eliot's reputation: whether he was an antisemite.

And for a time it was. But the publishers forgot the power of the British press to zero in on any outgroup, no matter how indirectly, to Charles and Diana.

When Fleet Street got wind of who the author was — the 39-year-old head of litigation for the firm of Mishcon de Reya and Diana's attorney in the divorce of the century — the poet who liked to call

himself by the avuncular title of Old Possum began making news again.

Soon the author of the book took second place in a mad scramble among British and American literary magazines that is still going on to debate Julius's prosecutorial-like charges.

Julius is a lawyer with a passion for literature but he marshals his criticism as if he were forging a legal brief, and he takes no prisoners.

"Not since the opening of the musical *Cats*, based on Eliot's children's verse *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, had the great poet been an object of wide public interest. Now he's become more controversial than at any time since his death," *Newsweek* said.

The reason is Julius's thesis that lines in Eliot's poetry such as "Rachel weep Rabinovitch/ tears at the grapes with murderous paws" were not only meant as antisemitic comments but animated and inspired his verse.

"Antisemitism is not all the same. Some break Jewish bones, others wound Jewish sensibilities. Eliot falls into the second category... If the work, or some notable part of it, is antisemitic, it is the work of an antisemite," writes Julius, who also argues that Eliot raises antisemitism to the level of art and therefore makes it more dangerous.

"No Jew reading the following

A chef's work is never done

LAUREN BLANKSTEIN

TO live under the same roof with a world class chef is no doubt any ardent foodie's dream — succulent dishes served up on command, exotic flavors tempting the taste buds day after day. Dream on.

When some of Israel's honest culinary masters drop their chef whites and head for home, they leave their gourmet guise at the restaurant door. If he's not overseeing some 70 kitchen staff and cooking up fancy fare for the likes of King Hussein of Jordan, Warren Christopher and the Prime Minister of Israel, Shalom Kadosh of the Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza does not lift a spatula or chop an onion. "After spending 10 hours a day cooking at work I don't want to even think about kitchens." Only if his kids apply a little pressure will he consider making a pizza or stir-frying the occasional chaw mein. While he serves up fillet of veal wrapped in smoked goose liver to drooling patrons, he finds true gastronomic pleasure in a simple plate of humus. After all, any great chef knows that less is more. However, the master does demand that only the finest of olive oils must be drizzled on top.

Influenced by the Japanese, he just can't stomach massive servings of food. For the *great one* food is not tasty unless half the plate is visible. So while his wife is shoveling the schnitzel onto her children's plates, her husband enjoys the delicacy of a single golden-fried fillet.

"Most people are sure I eat foie gras and caviar for breakfast," says culinary guru Israel Aharoni, of the legendary Tapuach Zahav in Tel Aviv. "This is not true." Aharoni, like Kadosh enjoys the most basic of foods. In fact, his favorite breakfast is a bagel (you know, the hard ones sprinkled with salt crystals that you find at bus station kiosks) dipped in "high fat" cottage cheese.



summer nights he can barely resist inhaling a tub of Ben and Jerry's ice cream (preferably "sweet cookies with cream"). More bizarre is his craving for a childhood favorite — cheese omelet topped with ... (get this) jam. It's one of the only things he's allowed to prepare at home because according to Basson's wife, his clean-up skills need work.

Basson is not the only one who seemingly failed in cooking school. Apparently these chefs have gotten a little too used to being "picked up after" by their kitchen staff. The chef at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel, Avigdor Brueh confesses that he's been banned from his wife's kitchen because she complains he makes too much of a mess. A welcome punishment — he's too exhausted after work to think about cooking. The closest he'll come? Sometimes late at night after his customers have digested the tender chateaubriand and full bodied Chamberlain they savored just hours earlier, Brueh is at home

chewing down on toast with white cheese and slurping a Choco to wash it all down. This maven of munch says he will occasionally succumb to eating "peasant foods" like hamburger and falafel.

Marrying women who share their knack for cooking seems to be a fortunate trend. In fact, Isaac Rand of the Princess Hotel in Eilat reveals that he often swipes some of his wife's recipes. Transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary, he adds a dash of this and a splash of that to give it that certain *je ne sais quoi*. Rand says the only time he'll even contemplate cooking when he's not at the hotel is if he's in a really, really good mood.

In a perpetual good mood is chef Margaret Tayar, the queen of North African delicacies. She never ventures into any kitchen outside of her modest restaurant in Jaffa, called appropriately Margaret Tayar. When she's finished dishing out fresh fish and savory salads, she prefers dishing out snekets in the local cafes

where she can often be found sipping coffee and snacking on watermelon. Her curiosity even took her to McDonald's just after it opened in Israel. "I wanted to see what was so special about the french fries," she giggles. She wasn't impressed.

Breathing new life into Tel Aviv's restaurant scene, Yonatan Rochfeld grew up on kibbutz cuisine. As such, he determined never to stoop to that culinary level again. Unlike the others, Rochfeld, formerly of Mul Yam (he'll be opening his own eatery in a few months), eats relatively gourmet every day (he even admits to eating falafels). But given his compatriots' bumbling cooking/eating habits outside of their places of work, this 26-year-old prodigy should brace himself — plebeian fare is the inevitable fate of a gourmet. So watch out Yonatan you'll be eating omelets dripping with preserves, chugging back a Choco and feeling like a stranger in your wife's kitchen before you can say ... tagliatelle.

A dictionary for the Information Age

QUICK, convenient e-mail is the medicine of choice when 11-year-old Valerie Lampert of Randolph, Massachusetts, wants to communicate with her grandfather in New York.

"Why don't you E that to me?" she tells him. "Grandpa appreciates the saying 'E that'." Richard Weiner marvels, "I love it."

It's more than familial pride. Weiner has just completed the significantly updated second edition of Webster's New World Dictionary of Media and Communications. New ways of using the English language are his biz ("business," as in "show biz").

More than any other dictionary, perhaps, his is a telling bellwether of how fast American English is changing as humanity wades deeper into the Information Age. It may simply be a 678-page list of words, but it tells the story of the 20th century — and the 21st. The underlying principle: Mass media is both the carrier and the source of new terms.

"We live in a media culture. You cannot look at the television and not be aware of what's behind the scenes in media," says Weiner, 69, a longtime public relations man who began his lexicographer's labor by collecting media terms on paper scraps. "So," he says, "the specialized language of newspaper reporters and others in the communications industry is becoming the language of the general public."

Consider that, disregarding "E" entirely

(one wonders, though, how the present participle would be expressed — "Eing?"), electronic mail just became "e-mail" within the past 10 years or so. And where a "blurb" began as a short lump of text, today authors and actors "get blurred." Many everyday words — born of the media, advertising and entertainment industries — are still barely toddlers. There's "fax," which survived a happily brief and clunky incarnation as "telefacsimile." And "FedEx," now occasionally a verb, which has become so well-known that Federal Express Corp. changed the name of its shipping service to the shorter version in 1994. And "newsmagazine," "tabloid TV" and "cyberspace," are all less than 15 years old.

"Our language is expanding as well as changing, and I think that's terrific," Weiner says. "Now, not just people in the communications industry but everyone of all ages, starting with children, now use terms like 'fast forward' and 'zap' — things that started as specialized terms.

So if life imitates art, imitates life, language naturally comes along for the ride. And more quickly: Weiner added or updated more than 3,000 entries since the first edition in 1990. "Today, if somebody comes up with a new phrase or word, it is spread instantly," says Allan Metcalf, executive secretary of the American Dialect Society. "Instead of weeks and months, now it takes milliseconds." It doesn't mean these terms will last forever, just that they're suddenly here.

Allene Grognet, vice president of the Center for Applied Linguistics, sees television and the computer as the two major reasons that language has changed faster in the past 30 years. The computer, she says, affects it in two ways — by being a widely used machine and by connecting people via modems and the Net. "It is obvious that the mass media has affected English a great deal over the last 30 years," Grognet says. "And it will continue and grow very fast as computers and the Internet grow very fast. They are the new generation of affecting the English language."

As for Weiner, whose granddaughter knows how to work the VCR better than he does, his dictionary is an attempt to keep up with the vocabulary of an increasingly complex world — from "adult contemporary" (a format of radio stations that emphasizes current popular music but not hard rock) to "zine" (a special-interest publication, generally produced by amateurs). "We still live in an age in which people have a high respect for media, or if not that, at least a focus on it," Weiner says. "And I think that it can be a good thing. I think that as a result of our global media society, people are more knowledgeable about more different fields than ever before." (AP)

Rotten fish makes for an August treat on Swedish menus

PUNGENT odors wafting from Swedish kitchens this week signal something special — rotten fish is back on the menu. For August heralds the start of Sweden's annual binge on crayfish and on one of the world's smelliest delicacies: fermented herring. It smells disgusting, it looks disgusting, and, to the unaccustomed palate, it tastes disgusting.

Many Swedes, however, love the decomposing fish — or surströmming — which made its annual premiere on Swedish dining tables on the third Thursday in August. This year it arrived on August 15. "It is an old Swedish tradition and admittedly it smells awful but the taste is wonderful, if you can get to it," said Thomas Haggland, production manager at Sweden's largest surströmming producer, Hannells Fisksalteri AB.

The sour-tasting fish with the stench of dog excrement has been made for more than 300 years along the Baltic coast of the Gulf of Bothnia, which separates Sweden from Finland. Fishermen first created surströmming due to the high cost of salt. Instead of salting down the herring, people used just enough salt to start the

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Ethnic and folk art will be displayed in the International Pavilion. Guest countries include: Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Holland, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Thailand & Vietnam.

Traditional Tents
Native American Teepee, Moroccan tent and Indonesian bamboo booth.

Fair Theaters
Shadow puppet theaters from the Far East and Chile.

Creative Workshops

Hot Air Balloon
Tickets: Groups - 02-612342 Bimot - 02-250905; Klaim - 02-256869 and the Fair ticket counters.

Production: East Jerusalem Development Ltd. Tel: 02-254034 Fax: 02-247157

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Aharon Bar-Ati - acoustic guitar & banjo
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August 24
Concert at 21:15
Wine and Cheese at 20:30

Admission NIS 35; NIS 30 to Museum members, olim, students, soldiers & seniors.
Proceeds benefit The Jerusalem Post Funds.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, August 21, 1996

Sharansky plans reform of his ministry

DAVID HARRIS

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said last night he is planning widespread reforms, which will include cutbacks. Sharansky wouldn't elaborate, but senior ministry sources said the changes under consideration include restructuring the key Investments Center, closing the four regional centers, privatizing certain functions, closing at least one department and moving others away from ministry control. While stressing the ministry has an important role, Sharansky admitted it is far less powerful than it was 10 years ago. "It is still not small enough, there are still ways to diminish the interference of the state," he said. "There are some duplications that have to be removed; there are some units that don't work efficiently enough." Sharansky refused to detail specific proposals or say how much smaller the ministry will be, both structurally and staff-wise. "For one who is only two months in office, and who has already started a serious review, it would be irresponsible for me to make remarks that will influence the fate and lives of many people," he said. He dismissed former director-general Yosi Soir's forecast of a downsizing by up to 15 percent. "I'd like to check how much of this percentage be implemented in the two to three years he was here, with respect to him and what he did," said Sharansky. Details of the reforms which have been disclosed by senior ministry sources include: *Widespread reforms within the Investments Center, such as replacing the 32 licensing procedures for investors with one central operation; *Merging the Center for Business Promotion into the Investments Center; *Closing the four regional districts, or transferring some of their functions to a national body; *Removing the Israeli Film Center from the ministry; *Closing the 'Israel Fibers' Institute; *Privatizing the National Physics Laboratory and the Weights, Measures, and Standards Division.

Gov't to sell Eliahu last stake in Union Bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Shlomo Eliahu group is in advanced negotiations to purchase the government's remaining 23.2 percent share in Union Bank, MI Holdings, the state company in charge of privatizing the banks, said yesterday.

There are a few issues, including price, which have not yet been settled. Union Bank's value has been estimated at \$190 million-\$210m. for the purpose of the transaction, said MI Holdings chairman Uzi Steinberg.

"I can not make any estimates as to when the transaction will be signed," he said, adding that the

recent experience with Bank Hapoalim, where a leading bidder pulled out of the tender just when the deal seemed sealed, "shows that nothing is final until it is signed." MI Holdings had initially intended to issue its remaining holdings in the bank on the stock exchange in August on the basis of Union Bank's first quarter financial statements. In addition, Bank Leumi intended to sell its remaining 16.8% holding, increasing the total issue to 40%, but that offering was cancelled because of the

crisis on the capital market. The Shlomo Eliahu group bought a controlling share of the bank from the government for \$85.5m. in June 1993. Sources close to Eliahu claim the consortium is also interested in purchasing Bank Leumi's share in Union Bank. Eliahu could not be reached for comment. Union Bank completed the first quarter with a net profit of NIS 17.1 million, compared to a net profit of NIS 18.3m. in the same period last year. At the end of March, the bank's shareholder capital reached NIS 569.1m.



Australian Treasurer Peter Costello leaves a news conference in Canberra yesterday to deliver the 1996/97 budget. He announced a A\$5.6 billion deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997. (Reuters)

Mercantile ordered to set aside NIS 30m. for bad debt

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Bank of Israel has instructed Mercantile Bank to set aside NIS 30 million in provision for doubtful debts in its financial statements for the first half of 1996. As a result, Mercantile is expected to report losses in its second quarter statements, which will be published next week.

A Mercantile Bank spokesman refused to comment. The Bank of Israel refused to confirm or deny the report.

According to Globes, the Bank of Israel has revealed alleged irregularities in Mercantile's branches in Nazareth and Elram. The bank allegedly extended tens of millions of shekels to trading firms Shlufa and Hashiva. The two groups' debts to the bank reportedly amount to NIS 75m. Both are engaged in the real estate and construction sector in the North and have worked with the bank for many years.

According to the central bank's findings, the groups received credit without appropriate collateral over several years. The central bank also revealed inadequacies in the bank's control system and credit division.

Africa Israel discusses Grofman's future

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Africa Israel holding company's board of directors held a lengthy meeting yesterday to discuss the future of the firm, including the fate of general manager Shlomo Grofman. At press time no decision was made on the issue.

Financial circles in Tel Aviv were rife with rumors that Grofman is expected to step down before Bank Leumi, the parent company, fires him. Among the names mentioned as his replacement is Moshe Weidman, Revlon general manager. An Africa Israel spokesman refused to comment.

On Monday, Africa Israel's employees and management published an advertisement in Ha'aretz in support of Grofman.

During the last few months, Leumi's board of directors and Grofman, who is also chairman of the Migdal insurance company, have disagreed on the method of selling Africa Israel, with

Grofman favoring selling the bank as one unit and Leumi contending it would get a higher price if Migdal is sold separately.

Earlier this week, directors at Leumi called on Africa Israel's board to call a general shareholders meeting to vote on the company's separation of activities into insurance, real estate and hotels.

The separation will include a spin-off of Migdal Insurance from Africa Israel, paving the way for Leumi's sale of 17% - 19% of the insurance firm to Assicurazioni Generali, Italy's largest insurer.

Leumi's directors say the bank must make sure it reduces its non-financial holdings to 25%, in accordance with the newly revised Banking Law. Leumi has asked the Treasury for a six-month extension of the December 31 deadline for the sale of its surplus

odd-hanking assets, but the Treasury has not yet responded.

Gov't to encourage olim role in CIS trade

DAVID HARRIS

IMMIGRANTS from the former Soviet Union will be encouraged to play a major role in developing trade with their previous home, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said yesterday.

This will be one of the core means of increasing trade in the newly established former Soviet Union policy program, agreed at a top-level meeting on Monday. It was agreed that encouraging immigrants, who understand the market, to establish working relationships with the business community there will be of benefit to Israel.

Three key areas will be targeted, including short-term consumer goods, mid-term investment and technologies, and government-level contacts. The coordinating role for consumer products will be played by the Export Institute, which will guide small enterprise activities, with the sectors it covers possibly being increased.

The ministry said it is determined to swell the number of mid-term projects. The sectors which will be specifically promoted are communications, agro-technological equipment, and medical instru-

mentation and equipment. Teams of industrialists and civil servants will examine each of these areas with domestic companies, while looking for suitable partners in the former Soviet Union.

In conjunction with the World and European Development banks, the ministry will pass on tender details, it will also encourage industrial missions.

On the state level, the ministry reaffirmed its commitment to the joint economic committee set up with Russia last year. The group met for the first time in Moscow last June, and is scheduled to reconvene here early in 1997.

Israel's economic representatives in Moscow will begin pinpointing specific regions worth targeting. The ministry said it intends concluding negotiations with Russia on protection of bilateral investments. Exports to the countries of the former Soviet Union totalled \$364 million last year, \$240m. of which was to Russia. In the first six months this year, exports rose 19 percent to \$132m. from the same period last year.

Phones fully digital by year's end

JUDY SIEGEL

ALL phones in the Jerusalem region are now linked to digital telephone exchanges and, by the end of the year, Israel will be one of the few countries in the world - ahead of the US and Europe - with completely digitalized telecommunications.

Bezeq Director-General Yitzhak Kaul presided over a ceremony Monday night at the Tapit telephone exchange building, where 20-year-old analog (mechanical) switching systems - whose clicking has been forever silenced - will soon be moved out and destroyed.

Bezeq officials explained that there is no market, even in developing countries, for analog phone exchanges, which are being replaced by digital computerized

devices. Silent digital equipment is much faster, more reliable and efficient, and able to provide a wide variety of new services, including itemized billing, call waiting, conference calls and routed calls. It soon will also be able to provide integrated services digital network (combining audio, video, text and other media on one line).

At the ceremony, attended by Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Kaul said increased efficiency due to digital systems would result in lower costs, which the company would pass on to customers.

Livnat, who praised Bezeq's

Jerusalem district director Zalman Kodan for making it the first district to be fully digitalized, said the "telecommunications revolution that is upon us will change our lives."

Bezeq switched to digital exchanges, ahead of most of the Western world, because it was in its own economic interest, as well as the consumer interests of subscribers. The public telecommunications company, Livnat said, "has a bright future ahead, it will continue to develop as it faces competition."

Digital exchanges take up only a fraction of the space of analog devices, and fewer workers are needed to supervise their functioning over advanced computer terminals.

First International profits down slightly

COMPANY RESULTS GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE First International Bank of Israel reported an 8.5 percent drop in net earnings for the first six months of the year to NIS 75.34 million from a NIS 82.33 net profit in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits for the second quarter of the year increased to NIS 39.48m. from NIS 39.35m. Net return on equity calculated on an annual basis reached 8.3%, compared to 8.7% during the whole of 1995.

At a board of directors meeting yesterday, the bank decided to issue deferred capital notes at a maximum value of NIS 200m. in order to raise capital to finance its activities.

The notes will be issued to institutions and businesses throughout the year. The bank also decided to distribute an interim cash dividend of NIS 27.6m., equivalent to 37% of the bank's profits in the first half of the year.

Management blamed the drop in earnings on an NIS 6.7m. adverse effect resulting from the taxation distortion created by the definition of foreign subsidiaries as a "long arm" of the bank, in accordance with the Supervisor of Banks' directive of 1995.

In the reported period, the differential between the "known" index and the index "for the month" contributed NIS 6.3m. to net earnings, compared with NIS 7.3m. in the same period of 1995.

Earnings from financing operations before provision for doubtful debts totaled NIS 347.4m. compared with NIS 351.3m. in the second half of 1995. The provision for doubtful debts fell 7.1% to NIS 28.8m. In the second quarter provisions for doubtful debts grew to NIS 20.35m. from NIS

customers' foreign currency activities. Operating and other expenses rose to NIS 348.6m. compared with NIS 333.6m.

Most of the rise was due to an increase in salary expenses as a result of composition payments and the employment of new workers.

Total assets rose 12.1% to NIS 29 billion. Credit to the public grew 15.3% to NIS 20.9m. Deposits from the public rose to NIS 22.9b. from NIS 20.9b.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS, and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.8.96). Includes sub-tables for CHECKS AND TRANSFERS and BANKNOTES.

Advertisement for AOCI Netanya Holiday Gifts. Features 'Dear Ruthie' book sale, 'A fax for you' promotion, and lists books, puzzles, and gift books available at reduced prices. Contact info for JP Subscriptions.

Advertisement for German bankruptcies up. Discusses Hermes Kreditversicherungs-AG Germany's biggest credit insurer, and mentions a fax promotion from Israel Discount Bank.

Key Representative Rates
Change
US dollar ... NIS 3.1480 -0.06%
Sterling ... NIS 4.8643 -0.14%
Mark ... NIS 2.1128 -0.11%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
DJI Industrial 7271.38 +21.82
DJI Total 7271.38 +21.82
DJI Comp 7271.38 +21.82

Other stock market indexes
NYSE 100 3883.2 +18.4
NASDAQ 100 2250.0 +12.5

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE AMEX
Aramco 4.8125 -0.0325
Bank Leumi 0.2125 -0.0125

Trade & Services
Price % Chg
Aramco 4.8125 -0.0325
Bank Leumi 0.2125 -0.0125

Oil Exploration
Price % Chg
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Bank Leumi 0.2125 -0.0125

PARALLEL LIST
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NEW YORK
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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading
Two-sided trading
AFTERNOON
MORNING
Name Price % Change Volume Shares Price % Change Volume Shares

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
LONDON
PARIS
FRANKFURT
MARK
STERLING
YEN
SF
FF

Market down in 'crisis of confidence'

STOCK indexes fell for a second day as the shekel strengthened against the dollar. The Maof Index fell 0.51 percent to 182.42 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.62% to 172.31.

Eurobourses close at highs in cautious trade

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses moved cautiously to close around their highs yesterday, slightly constrained by nerves over US and German interest rate policy.

Blue chips end higher as Fed holds rates steady

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks bounded higher yesterday as the Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged removed a possible roadblock to the market's continued rally.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

NEW YORK
LONDON
PARIS
FRANKFURT
MARK
STERLING
YEN
SF
FF



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Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Lebanese who captured reported Mossad agent now held in Israel

THE Supreme Court has upheld the administrative detention of four Lebanese citizens captured by the army in South Lebanon, in a decision made six weeks ago but released for publication only yesterday.

The four were arrested by the army on February 22 because of their involvement in kidnapping another Lebanese civilian.

According to *US News and World Report*, the kidnapped man was of Palestinian origin and was working for the Mossad. His abductors reportedly handed him over to the Syrians.

Publication about the detention of the four Lebanese was permitted at the request of *Yediot Achronot*.

The four were held in Lebanon until March 17, when they were brought to Israel and put in administrative detention in Ashmoret Prison for six months, at the instruction of then premier and defense minister Shimon Peres, the report said. The men appealed their detention to the Tel Aviv District Court, and afterwards to the Supreme Court.

EVELYN GORDON

The Lebanese argued that they were not a danger to the state, and therefore there was no basis for their detention. However, both District Court deputy president Itamar Pihel and Supreme Court Justice Gavriel Bach accepted the state's argument that the men were, at the very least, an indirect danger, since it would cause great damage to the army's position in Lebanon if four men widely known to have cooperated with Israel's enemies were allowed to roam free.

According to previous Supreme Court rulings, a person who is indirectly dangerous can be put in administrative detention just like someone who constitutes a direct threat to state security.

The question of how long someone can be kept in detention when there is no possibility of putting him on trial is a thorny one, Bach admitted. However, he said, the law requires a district court president to review the detentions every three months and decide whether their contin-

ued detention is necessary to state security.

Bach said he had doubts about the detention of only one of the four: a man who initially refused to cooperate with the kidnapers, and acquiesced later due to heavy threats against his family. However, he said, classified information eventually convinced him that this detention, too, should be upheld.

Bach also rejected several procedural arguments raised by the prisoners. The Lebanese had argued that they should have been brought before a judge within 48 hours of being captured. They also charged that the defense minister was not allowed to sign their detention order three days before they arrived in Israel, but that since he did, they should at least have been brought before a judge within 48 hours of when the order was signed.

However, Bach noted that the law requires the detainee to be brought before a judge only within 48 hours of actually being arrested on the basis of a legal detention order.

Ben-Yair opens way for Kahalani, Mazor, to resolve appointment issue

AN opinion given by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair earlier this week on the controversy surrounding the appointment of a new head of the police investigations department, appears to have set the stage for a resolution of the controversy.

The compromise will likely involve the postponement by a month or two of the appointment of Cmdr. Sando Mazor, allowing Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to save face, and giving Mazor the opportunity to back down from his threat to challenge the minister in the High Court of Justice.

Yesterday, sources close to both Kahalani and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz indicated they believed the controversy would soon be resolved.

BILL HUTMAN

Ben-Yair, at the request of Kahalani and Hefetz, sent the two letters earlier this week that indicated Kahalani would have a difficult time if his decision to postpone the appointment was challenged in the High Court.

Publicly, Kahalani has only spoken of wanting to postpone the appointment, slated to take effect on September 1, on grounds the time was not right now because of several sensitive investigations that are underway.

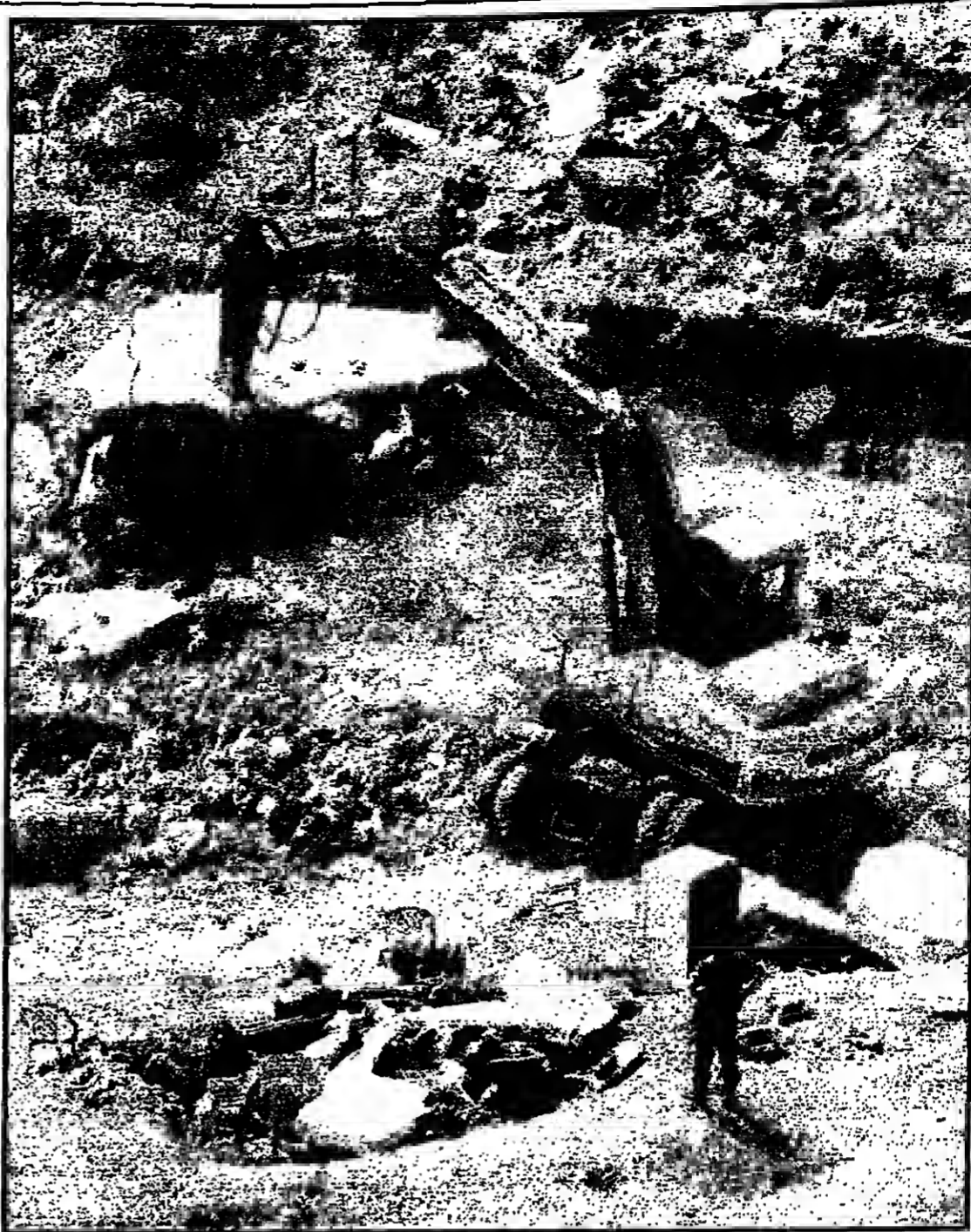
But sources close to the minister have said he intended to appoint someone of his own choice to replace the present Investigations Department head, Cmdr. Yossi

Levy, as part of a larger shake-up. Hefetz, who had originally recommended Mazor for the post, and Kahalani, are strongly at odds on the issue.

The original appointment was made about six months ago, with the approval of former internal security minister Moshe Shahal. Its implementation was put off to coincide with Levy's retirement.

Sources close to Hefetz said the inspector-general saw Ben-Yair's letter as a victory, and believed it would set the stage for the controversy to be resolved.

Sources close to the minister said the letter was not as one-sided as it was portrayed in the media, and that Kahalani, if he wanted, could still go ahead with his decision to put off the appointment.



Police stand guard as Jerusalem municipal workers demolish an eastern Jerusalem home built without a permit. (Khaled Zighari/AP)

E. Jerusalem homes built without permits demolished

INTERIOR Ministry demolition crews tore down two homes built without permits in the Ras Al-Amud neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem yesterday, as police stood guard to prevent disturbances by local residents.

The demolitions followed a similar action last week by the city, which tore down two illegally built structures in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya.

BILL HUTMAN

On Sunday, the municipality issued a work stoppage order against the Coptic Church for an addition it was building without a permit in the Old City. If the church does not halt the work, the city may try to obtain a demolition order.

Sources that deal with illegal construction in eastern Jerusalem said the recent incidents were in line with long-standing policy and did not represent the start of any sort of crackdown.

One of the homes demolished in Ras Al-Amud had been completely built, while the other was still without a roof, according to the sources. The owners in both cases were warned several times that the construction was illegal, and the buildings faced demolition, the sources said.

Itim adds: In a related development, the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday issued a work stoppage order

against the Coptic Church for construction work it is carrying out near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on land disputed by Abed Salaam Hirbawi.

When Hirbawi turned to the court two months ago, he was kidnapped by the Palestinian police and taken to Ramallah for questioning. Israel obtained his release and he has refused to succumb to threats to withdraw his appeal for a court order.

The court also ordered Hirbawi to refrain from entering the disputed area.

Interior Committee: Threat of long-range Katyushas must be addressed

DAVID RUDGE

THE Knesset Interior Committee called on the government to treat the reported threat of Hizbullah's long-range Katyusha rocket capability seriously.

The call was made during a visit by members of the committee, led by chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor), to Karmiel yesterday, where they met with local council heads and mayors.

The committee members urged the government to assist northern communities in taking appropriate measures to cope with the reported threat.

They also expressed grave concern over the absence of public bomb shelters and other protective measures in Arab, Druze and Circassian villages, as well as in confrontation line communities.

Tarif, himself from Julis village in the Galilee, said that most of the non-Jewish communities in the North also lacked serviceable sirens

alarms and emergency stores.

Karmiel mayor Adi Eldar, who hosted the meeting, said he had suggested that the government pass a law which would enable a state of war emergency to be declared for specific areas.

"At the moment such a declaration can only be made on a nationwide basis whereas, in my opinion, Operation Grapes of Wrath, showed the need to pinpoint states of emergency," Eldar said.

He said that his proposal, which the MKs promised to raise with the government, would enable assistance to be channeled to affected areas in times of limited war or military operations.

Though Karmiel has sufficient public bomb shelters, Eldar has sent letters to all householders asking them to check the state of the shelters in their buildings and ensure the shelters are clean and serviceable.

Pirate haredi radio closed down

THE security officer and council member of Telshe Stone outside Jerusalem was arrested yesterday for allegedly owning a haredi pirate radio station operating from the area, the Communications Ministry said yesterday.

Yehuda Mintz was brought in for investigation by police who accompanied ministry inspectors looking into complaints about interference with radio and TV broadcasts in the Jerusalem, central and Sharon regions. *Judy Steigel*

Court extends Hamas leader's remand

Petah Tikva Magistrates' Court yesterday extended the remand of murder suspect Said Badarna, 25, a key Hamas figure, by 15 days. Badarna, who also has been charged with planning the 1994 Hadera bus bombing, is suspected of murdering his cellmate at the Sharon Prison last week. *Itim*

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WEATHER

Jerusalem 17-27
 Haifa 23-30
 Beer Sheva 19-22
 Tiberias 21-34
 Ashdod 21-32
 Golan Heights 16-26
 Dead Sea 23-30

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Temperatures lower than usual.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Forecast
American	14	23	clear
Berlin	15	23	clear
Buenos Aires	16	24	partly
Caracas	21	30	partly
Chicago	11	20	clear
Düsseldorf	14	23	clear
Frankfurt	14	23	clear
Geneva	16	24	clear
Helsinki	16	24	clear
Hong Kong	26	35	cloudy
Jakarta	26	35	cloudy
Johannesburg	16	24	clear
London	17	24	clear
Los Angeles	18	25	clear
Madrid	18	25	clear
Moscow	13	20	partly
New York	17	24	partly
Paris	17	24	clear

Winning numbers & cards in last night's weekly Lotto drawing. The winning numbers were 44, 33, 27, 15, 13 and 3 and the additional number was 48.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, the king of hearts, the king of diamonds, and the 10 of clubs.

מאזא מן אלמא